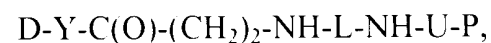
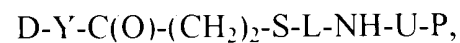
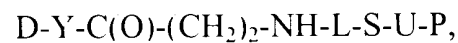
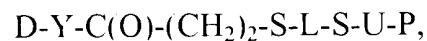
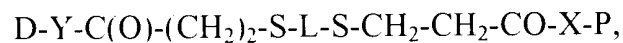
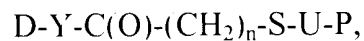
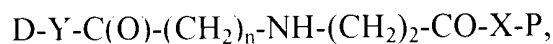


In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 40 and amend claims 5, 10, 13, and 35 as follows.

5. (Twice Amended) A biomaterial formed from the cross-linking of two or more precursor components, wherein at least one of said precursor components has the formula:



wherein D is a pharmaceutically active moiety; n is 1 or 2; Y is O, NH, or N; L is a linear or branched linker; X is O or N; P is a water-soluble polymer or a water-swelling polymer comprising one or more conjugated unsaturated groups; and U is the product of the addition of a nucleophile to an electrophilic group that is attached to said polymer.

10. (Amended) The biomaterial of claim 5, wherein said conjugated unsaturated groups are selected from the group consisting of acrylates, methacrylates, acrylamides, methacrylamides, acrylonitriles, and quinones.

13. (Amended) A method of forming a biomaterial, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) attaching a pharmaceutically active compound to a linker molecule or incorporating a nucleophilic amine or thiol into a pharmaceutically active compound,
- (b) removing any thiol- or amine-protecting groups in said linker,
- (c) coupling a thiol, amine, or alkene group in said linker or incorporated into said pharmaceutically active compound to a water-soluble polymer or a water-swelling polymer comprising two or more conjugated unsaturated groups by a conjugate addition reaction to form a precursor component, and
- (d) cross-linking the uncoupled conjugated unsaturated groups in one or more of said precursor components.

35. (Amended) A method of forming a biomaterial, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) attaching a pharmaceutically active compound to a linker molecule or incorporating a nucleophilic amine or thiol into a pharmaceutically active compound;

(b) coupling the thiol or amine in said linker or incorporated into said pharmaceutically active compound to a polymer comprising two or more conjugated unsaturated groups by a conjugate addition reaction to form a precursor component; and

(c) cross-linking the uncoupled conjugated unsaturated groups in one or more said precursor components.

Please add new claim 41 as follows.

41. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said biomaterial is cross-linked.